Use of certain expressions in court-rooms

2207. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been received to do away with the age-old post colonial practice of use of "My Lord" and "Your Lordship" inside court-rooms;

(b) if so, whether Government are planning to wipe out the old system and to introduce a new terminology to be used inside court-rooms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Mode of addressing the Judges in the court-rooms is a matter between the Bar and the Bench and the Government has no role to play in this regard.

Appointment of Notary Public

2208. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Notary Public appointed during the last three years; and

(b) the number of posts of Notary Public lying vacant in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The Central Government has appointed 935 notaries in the various States during the last three years i.e. from January, 2003 to December, 2005.

(b) As prescribed by the Notaries Rules, 1956, maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government in Punjab is 425, out of which 425 notaries have been appointed.

Expenditure on elections

2209. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by Government on conduct of the elections for the 14th Lok Sabha in the year 2004; and

(b) how it compared with that of the elections for the preceding Lok Sabha?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The expenditure incurred by the Central Government on conduct of elections for the 14th Lok Sabha in the year 2004, as per the provisional estimates is approximately Rs. 1093,06,81,319/-.

(b) As compared with the expenditure on the elections for the preceding Lok Sabha, there has been an increase of Rs. 145,38,50,319/- in the provisional estimate of such expenditure.

Election petitions filed after Lok Sabha elections

2210. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of election petitions filed following the Lok Sabha elections condcuted in the country in 2004;

(b) the number of petitions disposed of so far and the number of those which are pending;

(c) whether any election results have been revoked/cancelled on conclusion of the proceedings of election petitions mentioned in part (a) above; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Following general elections to the Lok Sabha conducted in the country in 2004, a total of 46 election petitions were filed before various High Courts. Out of the said 46 election petitions, 12 petitions have been dismissed and 34 are still pending before different High Courts. Out of the 12 election petitions which were dismissed, in case of three matters appeals are pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court.